7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick MD 21701
December 6, 1984

Editor, The Washington Post
1150 15th St. NW
Washington, DC 20071

Sir:

Our ever-smiling President, having gotten himself elected by promising to balance the budget and instead magnified it beyond imagining and having gotten himself re-elected by guaranteeing not to increase taxes, has unveiled economies that justify examination of his personal economies with the people's money.

He would eliminate about $170 billion of the national debt he created by "freezing," which means cutting back on, "food stamps and federal aid to the needy aged, blind and disabled ... grants to the cities" whose cores have been rotting for years, by keeping the poor from getting a college education, by denying assistance to the farmers who feed us and by making all civilian federal employees cough up 5 percent of their income (Post 12/6/84) so his rich personal and corporate friends will be spared their share of the burden he gave us all.

His special tax on government employment will yield more than it would before he became President because he kept his promise to reduce federal employment by having it reach a new high and thus he has more taxpayers in this category to pay his special kind of tax on them alone.

Would the Post please examine his personal economies and sacrifices by calculating the complete cost of his transcontinental junkets, paid by tax money, to chop wood in California? I mean all costs, not just of Air Force One.

As another septuagenarian woodchopper I can attest to its therapeutic and even emotional value, but I live near Camp David and even a Paul Bunyan President could not make a real dent in its stand of timber, or that of other publicly owned stands near it.

Camp David also is maintained at public expense for his relaxation, and it is close to Washington, even by car.

It is also close to many aged and needy people who could use firewood to keep from freezing. Indeed, his own program of taxing by "freeze" guarantees a ready market for his woodchopper's yield.

To put this another way, how many poor kids could have been better fed, clothed, housed and educated, how many aged, blind and disabled would have suffered less, how many of the youngsters who will not get the college education they could have and the country needs them to have for its future, could have had their needs met if he had chopped his wood at Camp David instead of on the west coast?

I am not unsympathetic to small business, once the backbone of this nation, as he is (he'd eliminate SBA), but they do not go hungry or freeze and are not homeless. Yet I wonder how many small entrepreneurs could have gotten a start with the quarter of a billion dollars his pals at General Electric got in tax refunds while making more than a billion dollars in profits.

Can it be that our all-heart President owes a greater debt to Jonathan Swift and his "solution" than he does to the Gipper, even his synthetic Gipper?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg